

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042389

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EGYPTIANS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LIFT OIL EMBARGO: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT AN ARAB OIL MINISTERS CONFERENCE BE HELD IN TRIPOLI ON MARCH 10 TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, THE LIFTING OF THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST THE US. THE BAHRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS TO EMBASSY MANAMA SUBSTANTIATE THESE REPORTS ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMS THE MEETING WILL BE HELD MARCH 10 IN CAIRO. HE SAID TEWAETOLD BY AN EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL THAT ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA, AND KUWAIT WILL FOLLOW EGYPT'S LEAD IN VOTING TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. (STATE/TICKER)

2. MRS. MEIR FAILS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT: ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR REPORTEDLY DECIDED MARCH 3 TO ABANDON HER EFFORT TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE, LEADERS OF THE FACTIONS WITHIN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT
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HAVE BEGGED HER TO RECONSIDER. (TICKER)

3. SKYJACKING FAILS: TWO GUNMEN, REPORTEDLY BELONGING TO A PALESTINIAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION, HIJACKED A BOAC AIRCRAFT ON A FLIGHT FROM BEIRUT TO LONDON. THE GUNMEN

FIRST ORDERED THE PLANE TO ATHENS, WHERE THEY PLANNED TO DEMAND THE RELEASE OF TWO PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS, BUT WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO LAND. THE PLANE SUBSEQUENTLY LANDED IN AMSTERDAM AND WAS SET AFIRE. HOWEVER, ALL PASSENGERS AND CREW DISEMBARKED WITHOUT SERIOUS INJURY, AND THE TERRORISTS WERE SEIZED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE. DUTCH AUTHORITIES REPORT THE HIJACKERS EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE WITH BRITISH MIDDLE EAST POLICIES AND SAID A US PLANE WOULD BE NEXT. THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION DISCLAIMS ANY ROLE IN THE OPERATION.
(STATE/TICKER)

4. KUWAIT UNLIKELY TO ROLL BACK OIL PRICES: A SENIOR KUWAITI FINANCE AND OIL OFFICIAL SAYS GULF AND BP COULD EARN \$3 BILLION IN PROFITS THIS YEAR, ASSUMING QUICK RATIFICATION OF A 60 PERCENT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT. HE ALSO DOUBTS WHETHER SAUDIA ARABIA IS SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING PRICES. (STATE) CASEY

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